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## AUSTRALIA.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—Geological Map of the Gerringong District. Scale, 20 chains to an inch. Surveyed by L. F. Harper. Department of Mines and Agriculture, Sydney, 1905.

Illustrates Mr. Harper's Report on the geology of this southern coal field of New South Wales, published in the *Records* of the Geological Survey of that State (Vol. VIII, Part II, 1905).

## BOOK NOTICES.

**Le Mexique au Début du XXe Siècle, par MM. Le Prince Roland Bonaparte, Léon Bourgeois, Jules Claretie, d'Estournelles De Constant, A. de Foville, Hippolyte Gomot, O. Gréard, Albin Haller, Camille Krantz, Michel Lagrave, Louis De Launay, Paul Leroy-Beaulieu, E. Levasseur, Le Général Niox, Alfred Picard, Elisée Reclus.** 2 Tomes, 8vo. Paris, Librairie Ch. Delagrave (1904).

Two stately volumes, handsomely printed in large type, appropriately illustrated by many plans and charts in the text as well as by full-page plates, and a large topographical map of Mexico at the end, present to the public: "Mexico in the Beginning of the Twentieth Century." It is a meritorious effort, and reflects credit on the initiator, Don Sebastian de Mier, on Prince Roland Bonaparte and his collaborators. Not less than sixteen well-known political and scientific writers of France have, each, taken up a subject and treated it in the form of a monograph, while there is sufficient touch between the treatises to maintain logical sequence. Hence the work is divided into sixteen sections, seven of which (Introduction, Geography, Population and Colonization, Political Institutions, Agriculture, Mining, and Industry and Commerce, etc.) are contained in the first, the remaining nine (Railroads, Postal Service and Telegraphs, Coinage and Banks, Finances, Public Instruction, Sciences, Literature and Art, Army and Navy, Foreign Relations) and a Conclusion by Mr. E. Levasseur (who also has furnished the Introduction) form the contents of the second volume.

That the impression created by the present condition of Mexico is a satisfactory one will surprise nobody; nor is it to be wondered at, if the decided progress achieved by the Mexican people within the last twenty years is credited to the administration of General Porfirio Diaz. That progress is also (given the unquestionable merits of the Mexican President and of his advisers) largely due to the stability of direction insured by his maintenance at the head of the State; and it shows how much more beneficial such stability can become than alternate variations in policy brought about by party changes.

To do justice to all the sixteen chapters requires too great a space. We can only glance at some of them, and shall begin with Mr. Levasseur's Introduction. That introduction, as far as the historical part of it is concerned, is open to some critical observations. Thus the assertion that Mitla was destroyed in 1494 is by no means correct. The "Mictlan Quauhtla" of Mexican chronicles was not the ancient settlement of "Lyo-Baa," of the past of which there are as yet no authentic

records. Nor is it apparent that the Mexicans were "from the earliest times on" builders of "lacustrine cities." The picture of the ethnologic status of the ancient Mexicans is also quite an antiquated one. In the same strain and in the spirit of hostility towards Spain resulting from lack of knowledge (of the nature of the Indian as well as of documentary history) the epoch of colonization is treated. It is the usual European standpoint deeply rooted in students of American antiquities and ethnology who, after the fashion of the French *émigrés*, have "neither forgotten nor learnt anything."

It is with some surprise that we meet, in the *Aperçu Géographique* of so distinguished a geographer as Mr. Elisée Reclus, statements like the following: (p. 42) "The Gila River, that flows from East to West towards the lower Colorado, divides the North-American mountains of Arizona and the Mexican ranges of Sonora and Chihuahua." As far as known, the Sierra Chihui-cahui and parallel chains, of considerable length and elevation, extend, in an approximately north-southerly direction, *between* the Gila and the Mexican boundary line, and they still are within the territory of the United States of *North* America. Nor is the term Sierra Madre applied to these ranges; it is confined to chains south of the frontier of Mexico. The section devoted to Hydrography does not contain palpable mistakes of a geographical nature, only that part of it touching upon the basin (Mr. Reclus justly remarks it is not a valley) of Mexico is disfigured by over-estimate of primitive Indian culture, marring the value of an otherwise very interesting chapter. It is almost comical to read, that the Chief of Tezcucó, "mourning wolf—Nezahual-Coyotl"—was a "very able engineer." The criticism upon Cortés for causing Spanish Mexico to be rebuilt on the site of the former Indian pueblo instead of the "lovely slopes" along the shore of the lake is simply childish. To cap the climax of errors, the famous tree of Santa Maria del Tule in Oaxaca is mentioned as a "sacred tree of the Tzapotecas," whereas it is established that, about 1675, there were four sprouts not over six feet in height growing around a spring, and that the junction of these into one trunk formed, since that date, the present giant. The village where the tree stands is called Santa Maria, not Santa Catarina, as Mr. Reclus (page 80) has it.

The section on Population and Colonization, due to the pen of Prince Roland Bonaparte, bristles with statements influenced by erroneous ideas touching the primitive condition and social organization of the Indians. To call the *Tlatoani*, or members of the tribal council, "feudal and hereditary lords" is only one example out of many. The romance built upon them is elaborately used, in explanation of the formation of "castes," in post-Columbian Mexico. The statement, (p. 89) "Moved by the narrow-minded patriotism and protectionism of the period, the Council of the Indies prohibited forever the access of foreigners to Spanish colonies," is correct, in the sense that such a prohibitory measure was indeed enforced; but it would have been proper to acknowledge that the incessant and unjustifiable aggressions upon Spanish colonies in times of peace, chiefly by the French in the sixteenth century, and later on by the English, compelled the Spanish Government to close its colonies to the subjects of other nations. It was a suicidal measure, but it was called for. We also have to take exception to the phrase (p. 89) that the Spanish immigrants, prompted by a spirit of local clan-nishness (*esprit de clocher*), were induced to form "a sort of clan." With the introduction of European ideas, the formation of clans was an utter impossibility. The section devoted to the Mexican mestizoes is remarkable for moderation of language concerning the Spaniards and for general truthfulness. The part

dedicated to Indians contains a number of valuable (because true) statements, as, for instance: (p. 101) "It is not the sword of the conquerors that has caused the great losses of the Indian race, but the smallpox and the epidemics carried over from the Old World, chiefly those of 1545 and 1576." It should be observed, however, that the *Matlazahuatl*, which then decimated the population of the Mexican tableland, is an *indigenous* disease, forming a transition from the *vomito* of the coast to the typhus endemic in the Lake basin; it follows that the epidemics mentioned were not imported, but sporadic explosions, such as occur occasionally everywhere, and for which, as yet, no absolute reason has been discovered. Again, it is subject to proof that the number of Indians in Mexico *did not diminish*, but that, on the contrary, it *increased*, under Spanish domination. The settlements have been moved, and the composition of the residents of Indian extraction has changed, under the beneficial influence of *enforced peace*, which the Spaniards maintained between the tribes. Speaking of the Indians of northern Mexico, Prince Bonaparte makes the very just remark: (p. 105) "The misfortune of those poor peoples, as well as those of many others in both Americas, has been that the apostolic career of the Jesuits was interrupted too soon." The attempted justification of the Indian (p. 109) against charges of intemperance and superstition might well have been omitted, although there is a certain amount of (involuntary) truthfulness in it. The clinging of the Indian to his primitive rites is a feature resulting from the pre-Columbian condition, social but especially religious.

While (page 112) we meet with the novel and quite extraordinary statement: "Finally, several *thousand Yaquis* (italics are ours) from Sonora have emigrated to the North-American territory of Arizona, in 1902 and 1903," the chapter on Mormon immigration, on the other hand, is quite remarkable for the exact understanding of Mormon character and designs.

The chapter by Mr. Léon Bourgeois on Political Institutions is interesting for the questions between Church and State. Its author is certainly right in saying that there are Mexican statesmen (politicians would be a more proper term) who already regret the complete separation between Church and State. They probably realize that independence of the former deprives the State and its partisans of profitable control.

We can only recommend the section on Agriculture for its generally moderate tone and the wealth of useful information it imparts. Mr. Hippolyte Gomot proves in it that he has some practical knowledge of the aborigines, who constitute the bulk of Mexican land-tillers, when he says: "As for the aborigine, he destroys without thinking of the future; foresight is not a virtue of the Indian." Some old fables about the customs of primitive Mexico are, of course, repeated, such as that of the "Imperial Menageries," but they do not impair the general usefulness of the chapter. To any one interested in the agricultural resources of Mexico, consultation of Mr. Gomot's contribution is indispensable; and the same may be said of the one on Mines and Mining, by Professor de Launay, of the "École supérieure des Mines" in Paris. Abundant statistics accompany the texts. The first volume closes with Mr. Picard's chapter on Industry, Commerce and Navigation, in which, as an Introduction, the author informs us that the ancient Mexicans knew how to cut precious stones, and similar pleasantries. Casually, Mr. Picard alludes to the introduction of the printing press in 1535; the only mention, be it said, of that important event in the whole book. That introduction is placed, strange to say, to the exclusive credit of the printer, as if it had been his own initiative. We shall return to the subject.

The second volume opens with a most instructive chapter on Railroads and public works in general, by Mr. Camille Krantz. Like all of the other sections devoted to modern Mexican achievements, it is based upon elaborate studies of data.

In his treatise on Coins and Coinage, and on Banking, Mr. de Foville has displayed fair knowledge of an intricate subject. We have but to repeat this in regard to the chapter of Mr. Leroy-Beaulieu on Finances, in which Porfirio Diaz receives proper credit for the admirable manipulations through which his Government re-established the credit of the Mexican people in the markets of the world.

Mr. Gréard would have done well to investigate some matters alluded to by him in the section on Public Instruction. He should have studied what he calls "colleges and special schools for the children of Aztec nobility." He would have found that the *Telpuch Calli*, or Houses of the youth, were places where the young men of all the clans were instructed in the use of weapons and in some songs and folktales. It is quite surprising to find that, in the few paragraphs devoted to early Spanish efforts at education in Mexico, not a word is said about these early efforts having been made exclusively for the aborigines! These schools were established by Franciscans from then Spanish Belgium, among whom Father Pierre Van der Muir (Fray Pedro de Gante) was most conspicuous as teacher. The Indian children were taught to read and write, not only in Spanish, but in their own native idiom. *To extend this primary instruction as far as possible the printing-press was introduced.* Of that important measure Mr. Gréard says nothing; nor does he mention (possibly he is not aware of the fact) that it was the Viceroy of New Spain, Don Antonio de Mendoza and the first Archbishop, Don Fray Juan de Zumárraga, who managed to bring about the establishment of the printing firm of Juan Pablos (his name was Cromberger) at Mexico. He remarks (p. 160) that "the missionaries directed their efforts not only to those who were of European origin; they also looked after mestizos and aborigines." He should have said that the primary education introduced a few years after the Conquest *had in view the Indians exclusively*, and that education of Spaniards and half-castes was of later introduction. It would also have been worth while, instead of alluding to one of the pictorial *pater nosters* of Indian make, to mention the numerous catechisms in Indian languages that had been printed at Mexico previous to 1540.

The paper by Mr. Albin Haller on Sciences suffers from analogous inaccuracies, omissions, and misconceptions. Modern names, of mediocre importance, are plentifully scattered through its pages; whereas, with the exception of Hernandez, not one of the authors of the sixteenth century finds grace. It is true they were almost exclusively ecclesiastics. The chapter following, on Art and Literature, presents the same weak points. Nowhere is any mention found of the Indians who, issuing from the Jesuit College of San Pedro and San Pablo, composed long poems in the last quarter of the sixteenth century. Such efforts appear quaint to us now; they are "out of date," according to our point of view; still, they find their place in a review of Mexican literature, as well as the early poetry of any nation in study of its literature. What has been (no matter whether it pleases us or not) helps to explain that which is. In regard to the numerous historical works of an early date, there is a deplorable lack of mention, and for the numerous grammars and vocabularies in Indian languages, which are the basis of most philological and linguistic studies of our age on Mexican idioms, a complete blank is substituted. The chapters closing the work, on the

Army and Navy, on Military Law, Foreign Relations, and the General Conclusion by Mr. Levasseur, relate to present conditions, and can easily be controlled through official documents and modern statistics.

That the chapters are all equally well written is self-evident when we consider the literary standing of their authors. The unique faculty of agreeably alternating the necessarily dry with lucid expositions and explanation, for which French literature is justly renowned, impresses the reader throughout the work. It is greatly to be regretted that it is so frequently marred by lack of knowledge of the past and of practical acquaintance with the country and people.

A. F. B.

**The Face of the Earth (*Das Antlitz der Erde*). By Eduard Suess.**

Translated by Hertha B. C. Sollas under the direction of W. J. Sollas. Vol. I, pp. xii, 604. 4 maps, 2 pl. and 48 text ill. Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1904.

The English-speaking world is to be congratulated upon being furnished with a translation into its own language by a master of geologic science of the classic work of the great Suess, father of modern physiography. Published originally in Germany in 1885, and later in a masterly French translation (1897), the first volume of *The Face of the Earth* has been familiar for years to the scientific public, and has had profound influence upon scientific thought and research. It would be a work of supererogation at this late date to undertake an exhaustive criticism of Suess's work, but a few words may be said to extend the knowledge of the clearest, the most instructive, and the most fascinating treatise extant upon the origin and history of the surface features of the globe.

*The Face of the Earth* epitomizes the work done in a century by scores and hundreds of geological observers, and even goes back to the beginnings of tradition, as well as history, in describing or tracing geologically recent changes in the configuration of our planet. Suess's work shows marvellous erudition and wide reading, but withal his statements are so well founded and his thoughts are so clearly and simply expressed that, in the words of another, "each fact becomes an argument, and the problems develop and in part solve themselves under the very eyes of the reader." The mode of presentation of facts and theories which characterizes and illumines *The Face of the Earth* cannot be considered unique, since it is employed in many treatises on geology and geography; but the master mind is revealed in the manner of applying the method to the earth as a whole, and in so marshalling facts in their proper relations and true proportions as to give a complete conception of the evolution of the globe, without striving to make the phenomena of nature conform to any preconceived or pet theories of the author.

One cannot appreciate the grandeur of Suess's work without knowing something of the preceding generalizations of Leopold von Buch and Élie de Beaumont, the appearance of which excited as much admiration in their day as has that of the work now under consideration in ours. Von Buch's theories have, indeed, been largely abandoned; but he first called attention to the relations between the great lines of volcanic activity and the grand systems of mountains, and he first introduced order into the study of the complex mountains of central Europe.

Geology has also outlived the geometrical earth-system of de Beaumont; but he was the first to show that the age of mountains could be determined, and that they were not all made at one time. Nor must we forget the work of other early masters of geologic science. Lyell added the idea of the permanence of the